(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The rate of increase in fertilizer subsidy during the past six years has been significantly, higher than rate of increase in farm production.

(b) While the farm production is impacted by several factors including various agricultural inputs, irrigation, rainfall and weather conditions, the increase in fertilizer subsidy has been due to increase in consumption of fertilizers and higher international fertilizer prices. This highlights the need for increasing fertilizer use efficiency *inter alia* through balanced use of fertilizers.

(c) and (d) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers for review of the Fertilizer Policy, including examination of nutrient based subsidy policy towards *inter alia* higher agricultural productivity and production for food security.

National agriculture insurance scheme

140. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many farmers will get the benefit under this scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme(NAIS) is under implementation in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season onward. The scheme is voluntary for the States and UTs and is available to all the farmers – loanee and non-loanee both – irrespective for their size of holdings. It envisages coverage of food crops, oilseeds, pulses and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which (i) the past yield data based on Crop Cutting Experiment (CCEs) is available for adequate number of years and (ii) requisite number of CCEs are conducted for estimating the yield during the proposed season. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 25 States and 2 Union Territories.

(c) As it is a demand driven scheme, the number of farmers benefiting from the scheme in future can not be anticipated. However, number of farmers who had subscribed to the scheme since its inception *i.e.* Rabi 1999-2000 to Rabi 2008-09 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

NAIS – Numbers of Farmers covered since State-wise since inception (i.e. Rabi 1999-2000) to Rabi 2008-09 season

S.No.	State	Farmers covered
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	18920261
2	Assam	139988
3	A & N Islands	1224

1	2	3
4	Bihar	3726639
5	Chhattisgarh	5756368
6	Goa	6664
7	Gujarat	9198106
8	Haryana	531255
9	Himachal Pradesh	168593
10	Jammu & Kashmir	22533
11	Jharkhand	3746769
12	Karnataka	9177415
13	Kerala	317772
14	Madhya Pradesh	16310821
15	Maharashtra	22555073
16	Meghalaya	18333
17	Mizoram**	0
18	Orissa	9107973
19	Puducherry	24277
20	Rajasthan	12045774
21	Sikkim	1745
22	Tamil Nadu	2378670
23	Tripura	15226
24	Uttar Pradesh	13259914
25	Uttarakhand	141946
26	West Bengal	7088296
	TOTAL :	134661635

* Manipur has started implementation from Kharif 2009, therefore, not figured in above list.

** Mizoram has started implementation in Rabi 2008-09. No coverage during the season.

Assistance to farmers to deal with drought situation

141. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been deficiency in the Monsoon in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has provided assistance to farmers to deal with the drought in the country;